

KING CAESAR HOUSE

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King Caesar House Open House



Joan Walkey, Dick Rothmund and Nancy Bennett confer over plans for the King Caesar House Open House.

Surprises are the essence of the holiday season, and there will be plenty of eye-catching displays at this year's King Caesar House Open House, presented by the Duxbury Rural & Historical Society. Decorators, who are charged with presenting the house in the style of the mid-nineteenth century, are planning a fresh approach to the theme "Christmas Traditions: A Visit from St. Nicholas."

The children's room has been moved to the front of the house directly across from the master bedroom. It will feature furniture that has not been displayed before, and toys from the Society's collection. Chairman of the Children's Room decorating team, Darrell McWilliam revealed a hint of her plans. "We've planned a little girl's room—she would be about 11 or 12. The room will reflect the change from childhood to young adulthood. She is excited about the grown-ups party, but she still has the remnants of her childhood treasures close at hand."

Dick Rothmund, former owner of The Studio, will be leading the East Parlor decorating team. The room, which features the Incas wallpaper from the 1820's, was used as the family room. He will be presenting it from a man's point of view, and he indicated that "The decorations will focus on the mystical Saint of Myrna known as St. Nicholas."

Julia Lizza and her committee face a special challenge in the front hall and staircase, where a reproduction of the house's original wallpaper has recently been hung. "We will be working from the vibrancy of the paper to compliment the colors but not fight them," Julia explained. "We want to get away from the typical and expected, so I think the visitors can expect a few surprises." In addition, Julia will be using reflective surfaces, a popular device from the era, which made the most of limited lighting.

Decorating committees are preparing the many other rooms in the house as well for the tours which will run Thursday, Dec. 11 through Sunday, Dec. 14 from 1 to 5 pm. Admission for adults is \$10 with reduced rates for seniors and children. Attendance is expected to be high, due to the feature in the December issue of *Colonial Homes* which presented pictures of the house from the past 2 years.

The Open House will also feature the popular Christmas Boutique which always offers a wide array of unique gifts from local antiques dealers and artisans.

The DR&HS annual Members Party is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 11 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Both new and long-time members will be treated to music and refreshments amid the holiday splendor. Current members are reminded to renew their memberships, and everyone is encouraged to join, since this party is the highlight of the holiday season.

A highlight of the 1997 Open House is the revival of an old Duxbury tradition, the Tea Room which will be held at the Drew House on tour days from noon until 4 pm. Guests will enjoy a traditional, formally served tea in the parlor and library of this historical shipbuilder's home. Cost for the tea is \$7.50 per person.

For more information on these events call 934-6106, or for a preview, visit the website at www.duxburmass.com/drhs.

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